

UNCLE RUFUS ON FAIR SITES.

WHY THE SAGE OF WALL STREET HANTS TO TAKE CENTRAL PARK.

He Meets the Waywardness of Newspapers and Other Objectors, and Shows Why the Other Proposed Sites Would Not Do At All.

The preference of this sub-committee of the World's Fair Commission for a site that shall include a part of Central Park, and the belief that no portion of the Park can be obtained for that purpose, have given rise to the report that such a choice was made in order to kill the enterprise.

Mr. Hatch, who is a member of the International Commission and also of its Sub-Committee on Sites. It is said that he has given the subject as to where the fair should be held and where it should not be held the most profound attention and study. While the Sub-Committee on Sites was at its labors he presented to it an elaborate and exhaustive report in favor of Coney Island. The opinion was generally expressed that he favored that site because he is largely interested in the Iron Steamboat Company, which proposes to begin business next spring with a fleet of non-sinkable and non-combustible iron steamboats.

Last evening a reporter for *The Sun* asked Mr. Hatch: "Do you really think that such a fair as is proposed by the International Commission will be held in this city, and if so, what are your reasons for your belief?"

"Whether it will be held or not depends," he replied, "whether the merchants, manufacturers, artisans, laboring men, and capitalists, and the Park commissioners, who pretend to own the Central Park, wish it held. Certain newspapers have already decided that it is desirable to hold a world's fair in the city of New York. I refer to *The Sun*, the *New York Times*, the *New York Herald*, and the *New York Tribune*. The honorable, high-toned gentlemen who represent the editorial departments of those papers are writing editorials upon a subject to which they have paid little or no attention. In the main these editorials are quite worthy of a graduate of Vassar College. They express an undiscovered sentiment respecting Central Park. Those who write them are fearful that some one will pluck a bunch of lilacs, pick an oleander, or trample down a daisy, and on account of these fears have begun a tirade against holding an international fair. If James Gordon Bennett were here he would probably give different orders as to what his reporters should publish. The only thing that surprises me is that Charles A. Dana of *The Sun* and George Jones of *The Times*, or the editors proposing them, allow so many words to be devoted to the subject, and make no argument against the use of a portion of Central Park for the fair, or rather for the building it is proposed to erect there for the use and ornamentation of the world at all time."

Now on the main points on this matter, Number one—There never has been a World's Fair held in the city in which it was held did not furnish the ground and make liberal appropriations to the city, and the amount of compensation for sites offered there was only one that followed this precedent. The city of Brooklyn offered Prospect Park, a location all ready for the use of the public, and a million dollars besides. Every other site has been a mere speculation on the part of people who want to get their property improved at somebody else's expense, and who will take advantage of it otherwise. Number two—The fair can be held where it will be convenient and accessible for the masses to visit, whether residents or visitors. Now the census shows that two millions of people live in New York, and the number of visitors to the city is about one million a year. This includes not only those who live in New York, but in all its populous suburbs, as Brooklyn, Staten Island, and Jersey City. The number of visitors to the city each year is about two millions, and the great majority come to the fair day and evening; that is, it should be possible to keep the fair open evenings, lighting the entire exposition by electricity, and not by gas. By the way, a very bad impression that this whole of will be made on the part of the city in the next three years. For these two million people to reach the Central Park, there are eleven surfaces of land to be traversed, and these will be crowded with people, and then, in moderate circumstances, and not the rich, who can ride in carriages to any other part of Manhattan Island as easily as to Central Park. If a person could get to the fair by the use of the Central Park for the fair were started to-day, nine out of ten of the inhabitants of this city would sign it."

"I well remember that Vanderbilt owns and controls all the steam railroads on this island except the Elevated. It is possible that he would like to have the fair at Javwood, which is eleven miles from the City, and make liberal appropriations to the city, and it would be held there than if in any other locality. He would then have all the hauling out of the city, as well as a good share of the traffic, drawn to it. This would be a great loss to the city after the fair if it should be held at Javwood? It would only be good to sure Vanderbilt's cars in West should have short crops some seasons. The buildings of the fair would be a great memorial. Has east \$5,000,000. They sold, for \$24,000. One of the buildings is now on Coney Island, and is known as the Sea Bond Palace. It cost \$10,000 to build, and the purchaser paid \$17,000 for it. So much for the improving property for other people."

What is true of Javwood in these respects is true of Port Morris, Astoria, or any other part proposed to be used, and the River, or Port Morris would accommodate New England, which contains in round numbers three and a half millions of people, while the State of Pennsylvania has only one million. Now, I am sure, now I will give you one more thought on this matter. I met Prof. Samuel J. of the Erie Railroad the day before election, and he gave me a copy of his paper, and said, "What do you think?" The next day we took the train from the Erie Railroad station in Jersey City, Port Morris. It was an hour and twenty-three minutes, we made the trip on a double track, when business in the Erie was suspended, and the trains stopped. On any other day, with the numerous shipping, and especially in the summer, with the excursion boats, and the great number of passengers, it would have been a long time to get to the fair, and two hours to return. Few persons will want to make the trip more than once, whoresoever it is, it is not a good place to go to, and the public, where thousands go daily all through the summer, our people and visitors can gratify the desire to visit it several times a week. Another point to consider is that you have to pass eighteen ferries between the Battery and Hell Gate, and then you have to pass through Hell Gate. The river is narrow, and the current is strong, and the bridge over the Hudson is the Brooklyn Bridge is only 1,500 feet. Altogether, the East River is not a practicable or safe stream to navigate to and from a world's fair. And a double track, and a steam railroad, in Hell Gate, and only an allowance of from ten to twenty feet below prevented their hundreds of passengers from going to Hades or taking a ride in hell. The bridge is narrow, and the current is strong, and the bridge over the Hudson is the Brooklyn Bridge is only 1,500 feet. 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